

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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2013 Yukon River Summer Salmon Fishery News Release #58

Summer Announcement #53, Subdistrict 5-D Subsistence Fishing Schedule

Districts Affected: Upper Yukon Area

The Pilot Station sonar cumulative passage estimate of approximately 113,000 Chinook salmon through July 11 is well below the historical average of 139,000 for this date.

Based on the current run assessment and in accordance with new regulations adopted by the Alaska Board of Fisheries, subsistence fishing will be closed to protect the first pulse of Chinook salmon. The closure has been implemented in Districts 1 through Subdistricts 5-A, B, C and is being similarly implemented in Subdistrict 5-D based on migratory timing. It is likely additional closures will follow to protect the second pulse.

Because of the large size of Subdistrict 5-D and the long time it takes salmon to migrate all the way through this section of river, this management area will be further subdivided. This strategy is intended to allow for more management precision and flexibility when the reduced subsistence fishing schedule is implemented to conserve Chinook salmon. Subdistrict 5-D, will be divided into the following three areas (Map 1).

Subdistricts 5-D Lower (from an ADF&G regulatory marker 2 miles downstream of Waldron Creek upstream to the Hadweenzic River and including all adjacent tributaries, which includes the communities of Stevens Village and Beaver):

Subsistence salmon fishing is currently closed to protect the first pulse of Chinook salmon and will remain closed until further notice.

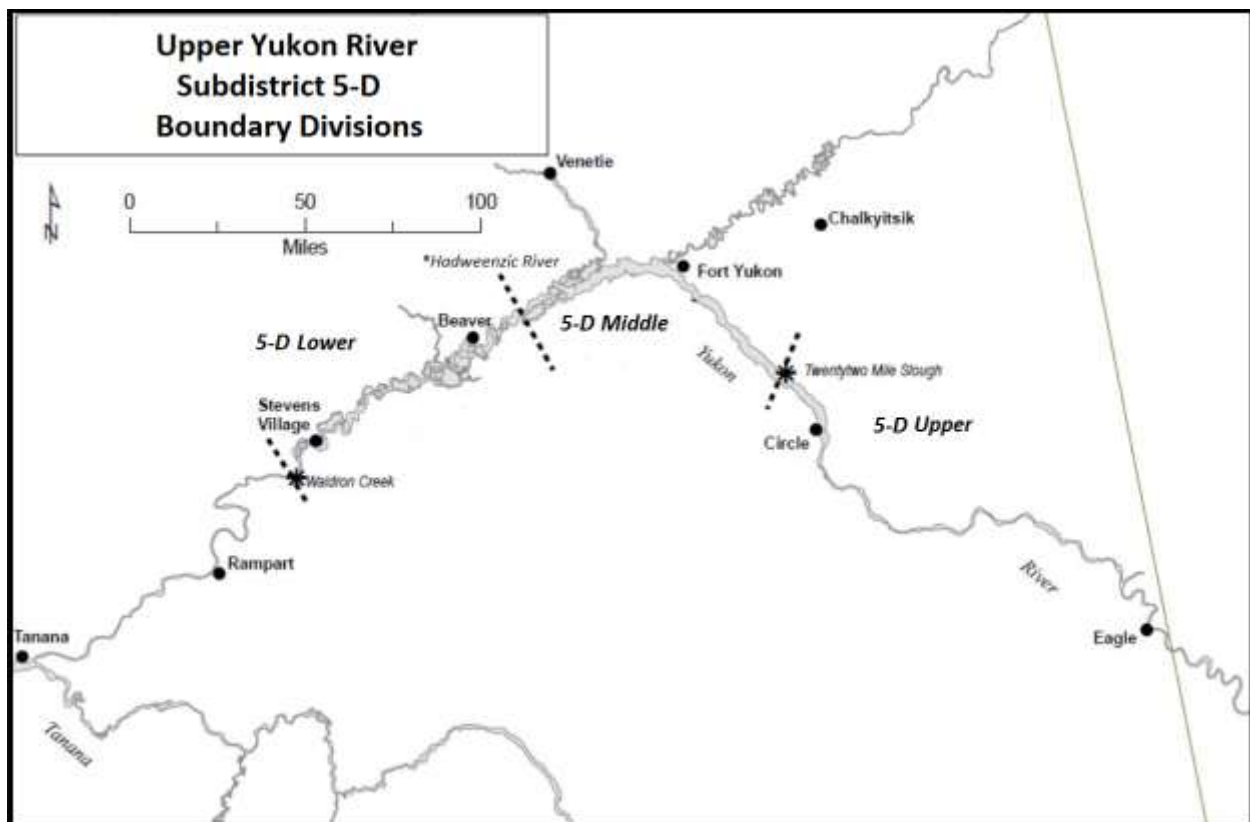
Subdistrict 5-D Middle (from the Hadweenzic River upstream to 22 Mile Slough and including the Porcupine River and all other adjacent tributaries, which includes the communities of Venetie, Fort Yukon, and Chalkyitsik):

Subsistence salmon fishing is currently open 7 days per week, 24 hours a day and gillnets are restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh size. Effective 6:00 p.m. Sunday, July 14, subsistence salmon fishing will close to protect the first pulse of Chinook salmon and will remain closed until further notice.

Subdistrict 5-D Upper (from 22 Mile Slough to the U.S./Canada border and including all adjacent tributaries, which includes the communities of Circle and Eagle):

Subsistence salmon fishing is currently open 7 days per week, 24 hours a day and gillnets are restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh size. Effective 6:00 p.m. Tuesday, July 16, subsistence salmon fishing will close to protect the first pulse of Chinook salmon and will remain closed until further notice.

Map 1: Division of Subdistrict 5-D



The department will notify fishermen by July 17 concerning the subsistence salmon fishing schedule in Subdistrict 5-D.

Subsistence fishermen are reminded that a fishing permit is required to fish for all species in the portion of Subdistrict 5-C and 5-D from the western most tip of Garnet Island upstream to the Dall River, and from the upstream mouth of 22-Mile Slough to the US/Canada Border. Subsistence fishermen outside the permit area are encouraged to fill out their subsistence salmon catch calendars. Calendars are available from the ADFG office in Fairbanks.

During subsistence salmon fishing closures, fish wheels may not be operated and gillnets with a mesh size greater than four inches and a length greater than 60 feet must be removed from the water.

The subsistence fishing schedule and recorded fishery announcements will be available 24 hours a day at 1-866-479-7387 (toll free outside of Fairbanks); in Fairbanks, call (907) 459-7387.

If you have any questions regarding this report, please call the ADFG office in Fairbanks at 459-7274 or in Emmonak at 949-1320. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service can be contacted in Fairbanks at 456-0418.

This has been an announcement by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

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